

# Unimas launches 'Kembara Zoologi' Programme at SK Meranek

**KOTA SAMARAHAN:** The Department of Zoology, Faculty Resource Science and Technology, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) successfully launched its "Kembara Zoologi" Programme on 2 October, 2013 at Sekolah Kebangsaan Meranek, Kota Samarahan.

This half-day programme was designed to approach local communities within Sarawak through knowledge transfer and sharing.

Unimas is targeting schools around Samarahan before spread-

ing out to the whole of Sarawak.

This is in line with the call by the Ministry of Education to involve industries and agencies.

This long-term programme, with the theme "Natural Resources and Environment", is targeted at primary and secondary school students, parents and teachers.

Besides, this project aims to raise awareness on local flora and fauna diversity and other science-related matters, such as 3R (Reduce-Reuse-Recycle) concept as well as the knowledge on sus-

tainable use of natural resources.

According to Dr. Mohd Azlan Jayasilan, Head of Department, Department of Zoology Unimas, "Sometimes we don't know what we have until we have lost it. Therefore, young generations need to be aware of the importance of conservation of biodiversity. "We are smack right in the middle of biodiversity hotspot and in order to appreciate this richness, we will need to understand and embrace the concept of sustainability."

"Kembara Zoologi" Programme at SK Meranek involved 110 Primary 3, 4, and 6 pupils and about 20 teachers.

It was supported by 32 staff and post-graduate students of the Department of Zoology.

This programme was also attended by three staff from *Pejabat Pelajaran Negeri Sarawak*.

Activities in this programme included "Natural Resources and Biodiversity" slide presentation, "Ask Professor" Slot, Biodiversity modules with activities as well as a wildlife specimen exhibition.

**GROUP** photo of SK Meranek pupils and teachers with Unimas' staff and post-graduate students as well as staff from *Pejabat Pelajaran Negeri Sarawak*.



PUPILS viewing the wildlife specimen exhibition.

